

Loud & Clear

Winter 2003

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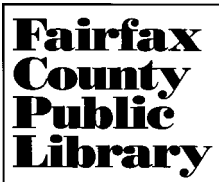
Technology for People With Low Vision

Did you know that Closed Circuit Magnifiers are available in every Fairfax County Public Library? If you are having difficulty reading your bank statement, holiday letters you received or viewing any type of picture or print material, a Closed Circuit Magnifier may help. It's simple to use and a Librarian will be happy to get you started. Just place the document you wish to view on a tray, turn the monitor on, and adjust to the size magnification you need. A small TV camera displays your document on a screen.

Large Print Tax Forms and Calendars

It's that time of year again. The worksheet for Federal Form 1040 is available in Large Print by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676). Ask for Publication #1614.

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Access Services

Fairfax County Public Library • 12000 Government Center
Pkwy., Suite 123, Fairfax, VA 22035-0012
(703)324-8380 • TTY (703)324-8365
FAX (703)324-8386 • e-mail: access@fairfaxcounty.gov

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library

Large Print Tax Forms and Calendars continued ...

There are a number of sources for calendars in Large Print or Braille. The following organizations sell at a reasonable price, a variety of styles with varying degrees of enlargement. For more information, call the numbers listed below or Access Services.

- American Printing House for the Blind 1-800-223-1839
- Braille Institute Press 1-800-272-4553
- The Lighthouse of Houston 713-284-8466
- Lutheran Mission with Blind and Visually Impaired Persons
1-800-433-3954, ext. 1322
- National Braille Press 1-800-548-7323
- National Federation of the Blind 410-659-9314 (Braille only)
- National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
202-707-9275 (Braille only)
- Society for the Blind, Inc. 916-452-8271, ext.
302
- South Dakota Industries for the Blind
1-800-223-5145



Digital Talking Books

The National Library Service plans to convert to digital talking-book players by 2008. For more information consult the website <http://lcweb.loc.gov/nls/dtbindex.html> or call Access Services. Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic is now providing some titles on CDs.

Scholarship

The American Council of the Blind awards nearly 30 scholarships a year to blind and visually impaired students. Applications and supporting documentation must be submitted by March 1, 2003. You may request Large Print applications. Braille and cassette copies are available for information purposes by calling American Council of the Blind at 202-467-5081. Applications may be submitted online from its Web site, www.acb.org.

Financial Assistance for Technology

The Association of Blind Citizens provides financial assistance for the purchase of technology products. Applicants must be legally blind and a resident of the United States. Products must retail for a minimum of \$200 with a maximum of \$6000. Applications must be submitted online. The Web site is www.assocofblindcitizens.org/assistive_tech.htm. If selected to receive a technology grant, applicants will be asked to provide documents such as tax returns and bank statements. Persons eligible to apply must have a family income of less than \$50,000 and cash assets of less than \$20,000.

Consumer Organizations – Low Vision and Blindness

American Council of the Blind (ACB) meets monthly and discusses every topic concerning people who are visually impaired – from how to get around as non-drivers to what products are available to assist

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Consumer Organizations - Low Vision and Blindness continued...

those with low vision. There is a monthly magazine available free of charge, in large print or on cassette tape. Call 202-467-5081 for more information or to receive the newsletter. The Northern Virginia chapter meets the first Thursday in every month at Summer's restaurant in Arlington. The president is Deb Chandler (703-322-1644).

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) is an organization of blind people from all callings and professions who meet to share the challenges and solutions that help them overcome society's misunderstandings of blindness. The Fairfax Chapter of the NFB meets every third Thursday in the City of Fairfax. Meetings are held from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the Fairfax City Regional Library, 3915 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA. The phone number is 703-246-2281. For more information, contact John Bailey at 703-273-1053 or e-mail, john_bailey17@hotmail.com.

Borrow a Pre-Packaged Program

Bi-Folkal kits are self-contained programs that have proven to be very popular with senior audiences. A slide show, skit, program manual, song sheets and much more are part of each kit. The themes are nostalgic and designed to generate discussion and reminiscing. Recent additions to the collection include *Aprons*, *Jewish Memories*, *Remembering Spring*, and *African American Lives*. They are frequently requested by Activity Directors but can be borrowed by any organization for group use. You will need a Fairfax County Public Library card to borrow one. The kits can be picked up and returned at any Fairfax County Public Library branch that is most convenient. Call Access Services for more information.

Assessing Assistive Technology

The July 2001 issue of *AccessWorld*, contains a practical and informative article by Linn Zelvin entitled "How to Get the Most Out of Assistive Technology Training." The author gives advice on choosing the right equipment and setting it up (or having it set up for you). Ms. Zelvin stresses the importance of having the equipment working and using the tutorials and manuals before the trainer arrives. If you are considering hiring a trainer, *AccessWorld* has a regular feature entitled *Trainer's Corner*. Copies of the magazine can be checked out on your Fairfax County Public Library card.

Have Cassette, Will Travel

If you would like more information about the services available through Fairfax County Public Library we can meet with your staff. We can provide display materials, applications, and brochures to describe the various options available. Examples of programs that could benefit your residents include Talking Books, Books by Mail, and Bi-Folkal kits.

Contact Jeanette Studley at 703-324-8390 to arrange a calendar date.

Directions to Access Services in the Government Center via Public Transportation:

- Take the orange line train to the Vienna metro station & exit on the south side
- Board Fairfax Connector bus #621 or #634. Service begins at 5:45 a.m. and ends at 10:00 p.m. Buses run every half-hour

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Have Cassette, Will Travel continued...

until 9:10 a.m., then hourly until 4:00 p.m. at which time service every half-hour resumes.

- The fare is .50 each way.
- Most buses are wheelchair lift equipped but it is advisable to call (703) 339-7200 24 hours in advance to assure this service.
- No Saturday or Sunday service.

Accessible Golden Gazette

The *Golden Gazette* is a free monthly newspaper for senior adults published by the Area Agency on Aging. It contains announcements and articles relevant to Fairfax County. To have your name added to the mailing list call 703-324-5633, TTY 703-449-1186. The *Golden Gazette* can be requested in Large Print or cassette by calling that same number.

Computer Access to Books

Bookshare.org offers blind, dyslexic and other people with print disabilities access to over ten thousand electronic books online. Users can access and download electronic books through their computers and read them with adaptive technologies such as speech output, large print magnification, or refreshable Braille display.

To become a member:

- Register at www.bookshare.org
- Submit proof of disability. If you are a registered Talking Books

user your eligibility can be verified by NLS or a proof of disability form available on the Bookshare.org Web site can be signed by a certifying professional.

- Submit a payment of \$25 one time set-up charge. The annual subscription fee is \$50.

Books recommended by middle and high school classroom teachers can be viewed at

www.bookshare.org/web/TeacherRecommended1.html. More than 200 books are available, including in-class and outside reading, both classics and new books.

For more information, visit the website or e-mail info@bookshare.org.

Department of Motor Vehicles and Hearing Loss

In Virginia, The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will arrange for an interpreter to assist during any necessary transactions. The Department of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH) provides the interpreter and DMV incurs all associated costs. The number for DDHH is 1-800-552-7917. The DMV also offers special license plates and photo IDs for the hearing impaired. Although no special privileges are given, the plates and photo IDs help law enforcement officers recognize drivers who are deaf or hearing impaired.

In addition, telecommunications relay services for hearing and speech-impaired individuals are available. Call 804-367-1773 or

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Department of Motor Vehicles and Hearing Loss continued...

(TTY) 800-272-9268 for more information, or check its website at www.dmv.state.va.us.

We are indebted to Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing for this update. Check their website at www.nvrc.org or sign up for the listserv to stay informed about issues related to hearing loss.

Access Services

Fairfax County Public Library
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035-0012
(703) 324-8380 • TTY (703) 324-8365

FREE MATTER for the
Blind and Physically
Handicapped Manual
PT.138

